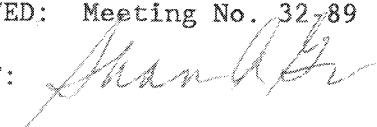


APPROVED: Meeting No. 32-89

ATTEST: 

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 27-89

June 1, 1989

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, Maryland Avenue at Vinson Street, Rockville, Maryland, on June 1, 1989, at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Douglas M. Duncan

Councilmember Steve Abrams

Councilmember James Coyle

Councilmember Viola Hovsepian

Councilmember David Robbins

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer, Assistant City Manager Rick Kuckkahn and City Clerk Sharon Gran.

Re: Worksession with Rockville
Housing Authority

Ardell Shirley, Chairperson, and Sandra Crewe, Executive Director of the Rockville Housing Authority presented a status report on their programs and pending projects.

The following items were discussed:

1. Purchase of Park Terrace Apartments.
2. Renovation of the community room at Moore Drive for mobility accessibility compliance. It was noted that the Rockville Housing Authority has received an estimate of \$70,000, \$50,000 of which will be covered by Community Development Block Grant funds.
3. Mayor Duncan inquired as to the availability of state funding for counseling project residents. Sandra Crewe responded that the funds are tied to alleviation of drug activity only and that the state would match local funding.

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Councilmember Abrams asked if funds for the substation on Moore Drive would qualify as matching funds. Ms. Crewe responded that this has not been officially stated as yet.

4. Ms. Crewe announced that the Housing Authority would be returning approximately \$24,000 in PILOT payments to the City based upon current reserves. An agreement to return PILOT payments to the Housing Authority as an alternative to providing operating subsidies was added to the "Wish List" for future discussion.

5. With respect to camera equipment for photo i.d.'s, staff was to check to see when equipment was needed by the swimming pool staff.

Re: Department of Community
Development

The City Manager advised the Mayor and Council that when the Planning Director position became vacant, he felt the time was appropriate to study the entire organization and, in particular, the Community Development Department in relation to the Planning Department. The restructuring of these two departments into one departmental activity would provide an opportunity for better coordination and enhancement of economic development activities and would facilitate the development process.

Discussion ensued as to the ramifications of such a reorganization and the Mayor and Council agreed that the City Manager should pursue this concept and report back to the Mayor and Council in a couple of weeks.

Regarding Community Development's proposed operating budget, the following items were discussed:

1. Mayor Duncan asked for a copy of the "Good Guy" letter sent by Licenses and Inspection to residents whose property has been exceptionally well maintained.

2. The Town Center development process has begun with the Whalen project to be followed up by Rockville Arts Place proposal with the State of Maryland. It was noted that the department is still working on the eligibility of RAP for a SALT loan

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and staff responded to questions regarding the impending loan arrangement.

3. Program to provide assistance for businesses displaced by development of Town Center.

4. Initiation of a development procedures manual as well as a rehabilitation program for commercial structures such as the Maryvale and Twinbrook shopping centers.

6. Staff has completed work with Board of Realtors on the Red Barn site.

7. Retrofitting for sprinklers will be completed during FY1990.

8. Training in Licenses and Inspection and BOCA and other certifications will be continued and training in the Spanish language will be initiated.

9. The violation notice used by the City will be revised in conjunction with the fee revisions. Mayor Duncan suggested that City staff take a look at the violation form letter used by the County.

Re: Planning Department

Larry Owens provided an overview of the Planning Department's budget, noting that the budget remains basically unchanged over the last few years. The following items were discussed:

1. An increase in Comprehensive Planning's operating expense of \$250,000 is attributable to the UMTA Grant and is offset by a like amount in grants-in-aid. Councilmember Abrams asked what the grant was going to be used for, and the City Manager stated that this information would be transmitted to the Mayor and Council.

2. Specific work priorities include updating the 1970 Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance and inclusion of the SRO Zone.

3. A software package, such as GIS, which costs approximately \$20,000 was added to the Wish List and staff was asked to provide additional information.

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Re: City Manager's Office

Mr. Romer noted that the FY1990 proposed budget includes full funding for the citizen service request coordinator and the graduate internship program.

Regarding the Public Information and Graphics Division, the following items were discussed:

1. Enhancement of CATV program and the addition of one position (producer/director for programming). These enhancements would include a panel/interview program with City officials regarding current issues and cultural arts programs.

2. Financial impact of 1990 census in terms of publicity and graphics.

3. Mayor Duncan requested a separate block item in the newsletter for Town Center summer activities.

4. Mayor Duncan asked if any thought had been given to an annual Rockville poster program similar to Montgomery County's. The City Manager responded that staff would look into using one of the City's banners as an annual poster.

5. Councilmember Hovsepien noted that next year Rockville would be celebrating its 130th Anniversary and asked where funds were included for planning a celebration. Staff responded that the Public Information Office has funds budgeted in its promotional operating account.

Regarding the Office of Personnel, the following issues were discussed:

1. Funds have been added for training opportunities and EEO recruitment.

2. A benefits coordinator position has been added for FY1990.

3. Councilmember Coyle inquired as to the special efforts to replace senior level employees who retire or leave City Government; the City Manager responded that there is currently an effort underway but that it really has no budgetary impact.

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Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council in Worksession, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m., to convene again in Worksession at 7:30 p.m. on June 5, 1989, or at the call of the Mayor.